

Message Text

SECRET

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 296842 TOSEC 240294

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR US

SUBJECT: HINTS OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON ANGOLA

FOR HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT

1. AS ADDED EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CAST
IMAGE OF READINESS TO SETTLE FOR MPLA-DOMINATED COALITION
IN ANGOLA, DEC. 15 REMARKS OF VISITING SOVIET HISTORY
PROFESSOR AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE LECTURER ROBERT IVANOV
BEFORE AUDIENCE OF USG OFFICIALS, CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS AND
ACADEMICS IN WASHINGTON WORTH REPORTING. IN HIS PREPARED
REMARKS AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IVANOV TOOK LINE
THAT SOVIETS PREPARED FOR COALITION OF THREE MAIN GROUPS
AND READY TO DISCUSS IT WHEN SECRETARY VISITS MOSCOW. BY
PUTTING THIS IN CONTEXT OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS ON SALT
WHICH MUST BE MADE IN MOSCOW IVANOV SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING
THAT ANGOLA HAD TAKEN ON SOME POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE AS A
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BARGAINING CHIP IN SOVIET EYES.

2. WHILE THIS IS HARDLY AN AUTHORITATIVE EXPRESSION OF SOVIET VIEWS, WE ASSUME THAT IVANOV--AN EXPERIENCED PROPAGANDIST-- WOULDNOT HAVE GIVEN SO CLEAR A SIGNAL WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM SOMEONE IN HIS EMBASSY, PROBABLY DOBRYNIN. IVANOV MENTION OF POSSIBLE ANGOLAN COALITION CORRESPONDS WITH STATEMENTS BY PODGORNYY TO DEPARTING UK

AMBASSADOR GARVEY IN MOSCOW IN FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER THAT SOVIETS SAW QUOTE MPLA OR COALITION AROUND MPLA UNQUOTE AS FUTURE OF ANGOLA (MOSCOW 17803) AND STATEMENT BY SOV AMBASSADOR LAVROV TO MOBUTU, DECEMBER 9, THAT SOVIETS QUOTE NOT AGAINST COALITION"(KINSHASA 10634). PUBLIC SOVIET LINE, HOWEVER, AS INDICATED BY WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMUNIQUE CONTINUES TO BE THAT SOVIETS QUOTE FIRMLY SUPPORT ANGOLAN PEOPLES REPUBLIC. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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